

Emergency Department 'Point of Care' Ultrasound Diagnostic Procedure

Policy Statement: Evidence based clinical care

Description: Emergency Department Clinician performed Point of Care Ultrasound (PoCUS) diagnostic scans

Indications: Various

Contraindications: Nil

Who must comply with this procedure?

MH Emergency Clinicians

MH Emergency Ultrasound Governance group

MH Sonographer Educators PoCUS program – Monash Imaging

MH Sonographer Educators PoCUS program – MonashHeart

This procedure applies in the following setting

This is applicable to all MH patients presenting via Emergency Departments (ED) with clinical indications deemed appropriate for PoCUS performed by treating ED clinicians

Precautions and Complications

MH Infection Control policies & procedures apply

MH OH&S policies & procedures apply

Equipment

- PoCUS ultrasound machines formally installed into ED, connected to PACS image management systems (Monash Imaging Carestream & MonashHeart Excelera)
- Ultrasound equipment serviced & maintained by ED, support available from Monash Imaging & MonashHeart as required

Procedures

Scope of practise for Emergency Clinician performed PoCUS is limited to the following examinations:

- **EFAST** (Extended Focussed Assessment by Sonography in Trauma for haemoperitoneum, ascites, pericardial effusion, pleural effusion, haemothorax, pneumothorax)^
- **AAA** (Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm)^
- **RENAL** (Hydronephrosis)^
- **RUQ** (Cholelithiasis)^
- **DVT** (Above knee Deep Venous Thrombosis)^
- **BELS** (Basic Echocardiography in Life Support)*
- **HF** (Heart Failure)*

^Training & credentialing by Monash Imaging

* Training & credentialing by MonashHeart

- Note ultrasound guided vascular access, nerve block & other procedures are not credentialed
- Further scope of practise development as negotiated by EDUSEQ committee, in consultation with Directors of Emergency, Monash Imaging & MonashHeart

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List of Implementation Tools

- No diagnostic ultrasound examinations shall be performed beyond agreed scope of clinical practise
- The performing Physician shall complete EMR PoCUS scan findings for every examination
- All ED diagnostic ultrasound scans will be uploaded to Monash Imaging or MonashHeart PACS systems for quality audit and clinician electronic logbook maintenance purposes
- No patient shall have an invasive procedure or operation as a result of an ED performed ultrasound examination, unless the delay in performing a formal imaging examination will compromise patient care (eg. haemodynamically unstable patient)
- Patients will have a formal imaging procedure as soon as practicable following the ED performed ultrasound, as deemed clinically appropriate
- The ED Governance committee will meet regularly to provide internal governance & support for PoCUS program, engaging in matters including clinical quality case review, peer to peer support, program compliance, development of new scopes of practise, equipment issues & upgrades

Additional Resources

- MH Procedures EFAST, AAA, RENAL, RUQ, DVT, BELS & HF modules
- MH Training & Accreditation for EFAST, AAA, RENAL, RUQ, DVT, BELS & HF modules

References:

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE (2012) P21 Policy on the Use of Bedside Ultrasound by Emergency Physicians (revised Jul 2012). West Melbourne, VIC: ACEM

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE (2008) Policy B8 Statement on the Use of Ultrasound by Medical Practitioners. Crows Nest, NSW: ASUM

Keywords or tags

Ultrasound, Point of Care Ultrasound, PoCUS, Emergency

Document Management

Policy supported: Evidence based clinical care

Executive sponsors: Director of Emergency, Director of Ultrasound, Director of Cardiology, Monash Health

Person responsible: Sonographer Educator - PoCUS program, Monash Health

Authorisation Date: (Quality Unit to complete): June 2016

Review Date: March 2021

Version Number: 5

Version Control: this document was revised – 11th March 2019